

ALLOWANCE

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art for the features of the claimed invention are Reiss et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2001/0044336; hereinafter Reiss), Dreaper et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2004/0063484; hereinafter Dreaper) and Harmon et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2003/0236736).

However, Reiss alone or in combination with Dreaper and Harmon does not disclose a method that accesses an electronic game set including a plurality of electronic game cards and a set of electronic trade tickets, each of the electronic game cards identifying a distinct list of game events selected from a set of possible game events, each of the electronic trade tickets identifying a game event selected from the same set of possible game events, prints the electronic game cards and electronic trade tickets from the electronic game set and distributes an electronic game card and a subset of electronic trade tickets as a printed game card and a subset of printed trade tickets, respectively, to each player so as to allow the players to exchange printed trade tickets amongst each other upon occurrence of a game event listed on one of the trade tickets. Thus, the claimed invention is not anticipated by nor obvious over the closest prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARTHUR O. HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-1814. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 5:00 pm, Alt Fri, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Page 4

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